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BOOK REVIEWS.

HANDBOOK OF THE LAW OF BAILMENTS AND CARRIERS. By WILLIAM B. HALE, LL.B. St. Paul: West Publishing Co. 1896.

The style of the "Hornbooks" is so well known as hardly to need description. The new "Hornbook," which is sure to meet with approbation, is characteristic of the series. General principles are stated in heavy black type, followed in each instance by a more extended treatment in lighter type, with accompanying footnotes, containing further elaborations, comments, and copious citation of authorities. Great skill and diligence is shown in the collection and arrangement of material. The accessibility of the contents is a cardinal virtue. The author seldom uses the book as a vehicle for the expression of his own opinions. As a rule, where authorities differ, each view is presented in an excerpt from a well-rendered opinion, but occasionally where the question is in an unsatisfactory state, Mr. Hale has indicated what to him seems the sounder position. On the whole, the book may be distinctly recommended. It should be especially useful to students for purposes of review.

W. C. D., Jr.

EXTRAORDINARY CASES. By HENRY LAUREN CLINTON. New York: Harper & Brothers, Publishers. 1896.

This volume contains a record of about forty celebrated cases, chiefly trials of persons indicted for murder, together with the incidents of and the part played in the proceedings by Henry Lauren Clinton, the author. It also presents to its reader brief sketches and references to many leading lawyers of New York State during the middle of the present century. The book is not intended for study but incidentally to interest and amuse both lawyer and layman, while its primary object seems to be to perpetuate the legal name and fame of Mr. Clinton.

He was admitted to the bar in 1846 and soon forged into prominence in his chosen profession, having figured in more than one hundred murder trials during the first twenty years of his practice. It is a noticeable fact that at that time great lawyers more frequently participated in the trial of criminal causes than at the present day.

This amusing incident connected with his admission to the bar, is related by the author. He was one of a hundred applicants for admission at the May Term of the Supreme Court, and according to custom, they were arranged in alphabetical order and three examiners appointed, one of whom was Charles O'Conor, one of the most eminent lawyers of his day. Mr. O'Conor began the examination by putting a question to the first man, who instead of

saying frankly that he did not know ventured to state the legal proceedings necessary to be taken in the given case. His answer was absolutely wrong. But the examiner, without indicating any dissent passed to the next, asking what further proceedings should be taken and so on until he had questioned thirteen. Most of them probably dissented from the first student, but feeling that his answer satisfied Mr. O'Conor, they followed in the same train of errors. The legal proceedings which they specified were the application by the attorney for an order of arrest and the granting of the order by a judge of a court of record. They all doubtless thought their answers accurate, as there was nothing in their questioner's manner to indicate the contrary. The next man was Mr. Clinton who was asked if he agreed with his fellow students, and on replying that he did not, when asked what he would do if retained on the other side, said, First, I would apply to strike the attorney from the roll who applied for the order of arrest ; Second, I would have the judge impeached who granted it and—"Bring an action for false imprisonment against all parties," added Mr. O'Conor. "Yes, sir," responded the author. About five years after this occurrence, Mr. O'Conor, speaking at a lawyer's banquet, related the above in Mr. Clinton's presence, and on being interrogated as to who the young man was, said, "I don't know that ; but wherever he is, if he has not yet reached the head of his profession, I have no doubt he is well on in that direction." Then Mr. Robert H. Morris, who was sitting next to Mr. Clinton, and to whom the latter had identified himself as the young lawyer in question, turning to Mr. O'Conor, said, "Permit me to introduce you to that young man." He needed no introduction, however, as he had known him in the profession and in social gatherings.

The work is more especially interesting to the members of the New York Bar but can be read with interest by all.

Benjamin F. Perkins.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACTS. By CONARD RENO, LL.B. Boston and New York : Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 1896.

The rapid tendency of legislation in the United States towards the extension of the common law liability of employers for personal injuries suffered by their employees furnishes an opportunity for a treatise on the Law of Employers' Liability Acts which has been most adequately taken advantage of by the Author of the above work.

The Alabama Act of 1885, the Massachusetts Act of 1887, and the Colorado and Indiana Acts of 1893, all of which are based on the English Act of 1880 constitute at present all the legislation on the subject, but as these Acts will doubtless be followed by similar acts in many other states the importance of Mr. Reno's work is evident.